

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Presently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:
 - a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
 - c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of axially interwoven layered elastomeric members compressed therebetween, ~~said first ring having a plurality of distally extending protrusions extending from a distal surface thereof, and said second ring having a plurality of proximally extending protrusions extending from a proximal surface thereof.~~
2. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of layered elastomeric members form a conical shape.
3. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.
4. (Presently Amended) The trocar according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein said seal assembly has an outer perimeter which is attached to a flotation means.

5. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said seal assembly includes a plurality of protectors disposed proximal to said elastomeric seal.
6. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said layered elastomeric members are disposed such that there is a substantially centrally located aperture in said seal assembly.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Presently Amended) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers have a ~~non-planar~~non-planar shape prior to be assembled together.
9. (Presently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:
 - a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
 - c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of axially interwoven layered elastomeric members compressed therebetween, the elastomeric members being circumferentially discontinuous, said first ring having a plurality of distally extending protrusions extending from a distal surface thereof.

10. (Presently Amended) The trocar according to ~~claim 10~~claim 9 wherein said plurality of layered elastomeric members form a conical shape.
11. (Original) The trocar according to claim 10 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.
12. (Original) The trocar according to claim 11 wherein said seal assembly has an outer perimeter which is attached to a flotation means.
13. (Original) The trocar according to claim 10 wherein said seal assembly includes a plurality of protectors disposed proximal to said elastomeric seal.
14. (Original) The trocar according to claim 10 wherein said layered elastomeric members are disposed such that there is a substantially centrally located aperture in said seal assembly.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Presently Amended) The trocar according to claim 10 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers have a ~~non-planar~~non-planar shape prior to be assembled together.

17. (Presently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:
- a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
 - c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of layered elastomeric members with circumferential gaps compressed therebetween, ~~said second ring having a plurality of proximally extending protrusions extending from a proximal surface thereof.~~
18. (Original) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said plurality of layered elastomeric members form a conical shape.
19. (Original) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.
20. (Original) The trocar according to claim 19 wherein said seal assembly has an outer perimeter which is attached to a flotation means.
21. (Original) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said seal assembly includes a plurality of protectors disposed proximal to said elastomeric seal.

22. (Original) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said layered elastomeric members are disposed such that there is a substantially centrally located aperture in said seal assembly.

23. (Presently Amended) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers are ~~woven together~~ interwoven.

24. (Presently Amended) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers have a ~~non-planer~~ non-planar shape prior to be assembled together.